

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Council of Australian Law
Deans

Australasian Law
Academics Association

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29 April 2020

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COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN LAW DEANS

AND

AUSTRALASIAN LAW ACADEMICS ASSOCIATION

Background

1. The **Council of Australian Law Deans** (CALD) is the peak body of Australian law schools. Its members are the Deans, Heads or Directors, by whatever name called, of Australian law schools. Its objectives as expressed in its Constitution are:
 - (a) consultation on matters of mutual concern to members of the institutions which they represent and, where appropriate, the adoption of common policies;
 - (b) the furtherance of legal education and legal research in Australia;
 - (c) the promotion of active cooperation of the institutions represented on the Council with one another, and with university, professional and other learned bodies in Australia and elsewhere; and
 - (d) representation of law schools and their needs to Federal and State governments, higher education bodies, the legal profession and the wider community.
2. The **Australasian Law Academics Association** (ALAA) was established in 1946 as the Australian Universities Law Schools Association and has for the past 74 years provided a platform for Australasian law teachers and legal scholars to network, collaborate and share expertise. Its members include Deans, law teachers, law schools and faculties, law librarians and persons who have duties or interests which are relevant to legal education in Australasia. Its objectives as expressed in its Constitution are to:
 - (a) facilitate best practice in law teaching, research and scholarship by law academics in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific ('Australasia');
 - (b) promote collaboration and cooperation by Australasian law academics with one another, with law academics elsewhere, and with academic, professional, law reform, government and other organisations and institutions;
 - (c) provide assistance and support to Australasian law academics in planning and managing their academic careers; and
 - (d) represent the interests of Australasian law academics in discussions and debates about law teaching, research and scholarship.

Object

3. The object of this Memorandum of Understanding is to clarify the relationship between CALD and ALAA and to set out the ways in which CALD and ALAA collaborate, cooperate and support each other.

Open communication

4. CALD and ALAA will maintain a direct line of communication with each other about their activities and achievements.
5. To facilitate such communication, the current CALD Chair will be an *ex officio* non-voting member of the ALAA Executive Committee.

Mutual support

6. CALD and ALAA will support each other to achieve their respective objectives.
7. The CALD Executive Committee will strongly encourage CALD members to be institutional members of ALAA.
8. The ALAA Executive Committee will circulate to ALAA members notifications and news from CALD as reasonably requested by the CALD Executive Committee.
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Joint events

10. Each year CALD will announce the winners of the Australian Legal Research Awards and the Australian Legal Teaching Awards at the ALAA Conference (if an ALAA Conference is held in that year) and will sponsor (including making a financial contribution to) an appropriate celebratory event for this purpose at the Conference that all CALD members will be encouraged to attend.
11. Each year (if an ALAA Conference is held in that year) CALD will either:
 - (a) schedule a CALD meeting to coincide with the Conference and to be held at a venue at or near the ALAA Conference venue; or
 - (b) organise and deliver a session at the Conference that focusses upon professional development for law deans and other legal academics in leadership roles.

SIGNED

On behalf of CALD by

Professor Lesley Hitchens, CALD Chair



Signature

Signed 1 May 2020

On behalf of ALAA by

Professor Nick James, ALAA Chair



Signature

Signed 29 April 2020